

4420 Social Worker Monthly Health and Safety Visits

PURPOSE

Health and Safety visits are face-to-face monthly visits conducted by the assigned social worker that provide ongoing assessment of the health, safety, permanency and well-being of children. The visits involve the child, parent(s) and caregiver in decisions that affect their lives, including the case plan.

POLICY

- A. **Children** in CA custody must receive private face-to-face Health and Safety visits by the assigned CA social worker **every calendar month, not to exceed 40 days between visits.**
 - 1. The first visit must occur within one week (seven calendar days) of initial placement. (*Placing a child is not considered a Health and Safety visit.*)
 - 2. For in home dependencies **all** visits must occur in the home where the child resides.
 - 3. For out-of-home placements, the **majority** of visits in must occur in the home where the child resides. If the social worker visits the child in another location, the social worker must document the reason and benefit gained.
- B. **Caregivers** must receive visits by the assigned CA social worker **every calendar month, not to exceed 40 days between visits.**
- C. All visits must be **documented** in the case notes.

PROCEDURE

I. Health and Safety Visits According to Case Type:

A. Children in their own homes

The social worker conducts monthly visits. This includes:

- 1. **In-home dependencies**, including dependent children who return home on a trial return home or remain home under the jurisdiction of the court until dismissal of the dependency.
- 2. **Courtesy Supervision** when requested for an in-home dependency case.
- 3. **Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC)** cases.

Children ages **0-5 years** require two in-home visits every calendar month for the first 120 calendar days of an established in-home dependency.

(One of the two visits may be conducted by a CA paraprofessional, contracted provider or non-contracted professional).

B. Children in out-of-home care

The assigned social worker conducts monthly visits. This includes:

1. When a **dependency** petition is filed or established and the court has ordered that the child reside in out-of home placement (includes Long-Term Foster Care Agreements).
2. When the child is placed by **Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA)**.
3. **Courtesy Supervision** cases.
4. **Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC)** cases.

II. Social worker visits with child

At each visit, the social worker completes the following activities, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Observes how the child appears developmentally, physically and emotionally.
2. Observes how the parent/caregiver and the child respond to each other.
3. Holds a discussion with the verbal child(ren) in private, separate from the parent/caregiver, either in the home or in another location where the child is comfortable.
4. Observes the home environment when the visit occurs in the home where the child lives.
5. Confirms that each child capable of reading, writing and using the telephone has a card with the social worker's name, office address, and phone number.

III. Social Worker Coordination with Tribes

The social worker contacts the child's Tribe(s) to discuss and plan how to involve the Tribe(s) in the monthly visits. The social worker documents the contact and the plan in the case notes.

IV. Social Worker Visits with Caregiver

The social worker conducts monthly visits with the caregiver. The location of the visit may vary. During the visit, the social worker:

1. Discusses with the caregiver the child's well-being and permanency goals.
2. Observes the child and caregiver relationship and home environment when a visit occurs in the caregiver's home.
3. Assesses the caregiver's ability to provide adequate care and identify any support and/or training needs.

V. Social Worker Documentation

The social worker documents each visit, including content, in the case notes in the following way:

1. Use the following codes for visits and attempted visits for visits **for all children in CA custody**:

- Health and Safety Visit (assigned CA social worker)
- Health and Safety Visit (attempted)

For ICPC cases, the assigned CA social worker will document when the receiving state completes a visit.

2. Use the following code for **In-home dependencies** when one of the two required monthly visits (**for children 0-5 years in the first 120 days**) is completed by a contracted professional provider or private agency case manager:

- Health and Safety Visit (conducted by other agency).

3. Use the following code for **visits with caregivers**:

- Contact-Care Provider or Facility Provider Contact
- Relative Contact, as appropriate.